

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 135661
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 135661

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 26 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED FRIDAY THAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 135661

PRESIDENT CARTER IN CONTROVERSIAL DECISION REACHED MAY 20
IN "UNUSUAL SECRECY," OVERRODE OBJECTIONS OF SENIOR MILI-
TARY OFFICERS AND ATOMIC ENERGY OFFICIALS AND DECIDED TO
ASK SOVIET UNION FOR TEMPORARY BAN ON ALMOST ALL TESTING OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BURT SAID U.S. NEGOTIATORS WERE INSTRUC-
TED THIS WEEK TO SEEK AN ACCORD WITH MOSCOW THAT WOULD
IMPOSE HALT IN TESTING FOR FIVE YEARS, EXEMPTING ONLY

NARROW RANGE OF LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, BURT REPORTED, TOLD SSOD AT U.N. THAT AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE COMPLETED "BEFORE TOO LONG." BURT SAID PRESIDENT'S DECISION IS REGARDED AS VICTORY FOR ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE, "WHO HAD URGED THAT U.S. SEEK COMPREHENSIVE BAN DURING TALKS NOW UNDER WAY WITH SOVIET UNION AND BRITAIN IN GENEVA."

2. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN WASHINGTON POST, CHARGED THAT "JUST TWO DAYS AFTER SECRET TESTIMONY BY NEW CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF REAFFIRMED MILITARY'S OPPOSITION TO TOTAL NUCLEAR TEST BAN, PRESIDENT CARTER ORDERED U.S. NEGOTIATORS TO PRESS FOR PRECISELY SUCH DEAL WITH SOVIETS." THEY SAID GEN. DAVID JONES, JCS CHAIRMAN, AT CLOSED-DOOR SENATE HEARINGS MAY 18, "UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSED, IN INTERESTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY, 'ZERO YIELD' BAN (PROHIBITING EVEN LOW-YIELD EXPLOSIONS) OF ALL UNDERGROUND TESTS. HE WAS PATENTLY UNAWARE THAT 'PRESIDENTIAL DECISION MEMORANDUM' TAKING OPPOSITE POSITION WAS BEING READIED FOR CARTER'S SIGNATURE MAY 20."

3. KENNETH BACON OF WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTED THAT CARTER WARNED SOVIET UNION THAT ITS MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND RESTRICTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AT HOME COULD JEOPARDIZE COMPLETION OF NEW SALT AGREEMENT. BACON SAID CARTER, IN HIS SHARP COMMENTS AT CHICAGO NEWS CONFERENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 135661

THURSDAY, STRESSED THAT HE DOESN'T PLAN TO HALT OR SLOW CURRENT EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE SALT TREATY. "WE OUGHT NOT TO LET ANY IMPEDIMENT COME BETWEEN US AND REACHING OF SOUND" SALT TWO AGREEMENT WHICH IS "SO IMPORTANT TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO SAFETY OF ENTIRE WORLD," CARTER SAID. BUT HE WARNED THAT "UNLESS SOVIETS HONOR" BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND "UNLESS THEY HONOR CONSTRAINTS ON THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN PLACES LIKE AFRICA, IT WILL HAVE STRONG ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR COUNTRY AND MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO SELL TO AMERICAN PEOPLE AND TO HAVE RATIFIED IN CONGRESS SALT AGREEMENT IF IT SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED."

4. DAVID BRODER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID GERALD FORD SAID CARTER MUST "TAKE HARDER LINE WITH SOVIETS" AND TELL THEM THAT "IF THEY PERSIST IN THEIR ADVENTURISM" IN AFRICA, NEW SALT TREATY "IS NOT POSSIBILITY." FORD, AT WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE THURSDAY, SAID HE "WOULD NOT RULE OUT" USING SALT DISCUSSIONS IN AN EFFORT TO SLOW DOWN SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. "AS STRONGLY AS I FEEL GOOD SALT TWO AGREEMENT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, I WOULD NOT RULE THAT OUT."

5. JEFFREY ANTEVIL OF NEW YORK NEWS REPORTED THAT SENATE MODERATES HAVE FORMED AN INFORMAL BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE TO COUNTER ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO ANY NEW SALT AGREEMENT BY CONSERVATIVE CRITICS. LEADERS OF BIPARTISAN EFFORT CONFIRMED COUNTERMOVE AFTER AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION DISCLOSED LAST WEEK THAT IT PLANNED AN ANTI-SALT CAMPAIGN EVEN MORE EXTENSIVE THAN ITS UNSUCCESSFUL 1.4 MILLION DOLLAR NATIONWIDE DRIVE TO DEFEAT PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, ANTEVIL SAID. "COUNTERMOVE WAS SEEN AS NECESSARY BY MODERATES IN FACE OF ADMISSION BY SOME HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS 'LEFT FIELD TO ENEMIES' OF NEW TREATY," HE ADDED. ANTEVIL SAID TASK FORCE MEMBERS WILL URGE UNCOMMITTED SENATORS TO "KEEP AN OPEN MIND" ON TREATY AT LEAST UNTIL IT IS COMPLETED AND SIGNED. LEADERS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 135661

OF EFFORT INCLUDE SENATORS KENNEDY, MC INTYRE, AND MATHIAS, HE CONTINUED.

6. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES, QUOTING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, SAID OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, IN MEMO TO PENTAGON, HAS OPPOSED AIR FORCE PLAN TO BEGIN FULL-SCALE DEVELOPMENT NEXT YEAR OF MOBILE MISSILE. BURT SAID MEMO IS INTENDED TO GUIDE PENTAGON IN PUTTING TOGETHER ITS FY-1980 BUDGET REQUEST. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS, HE REPORTED, OMB PROPOSED THAT AIR FORCE REQUEST FOR 580 MILLION FOR MX BE CUT IN HALF AND THAT PLANS TO BUILD MX PROTOTYPE BE SHELVED FOR TIME BEING. NOTING THAT OMB'S RECOMMENDATION IS NOT MANDATORY, BURT REPORTED THAT PENTAGON OFFICIALS SAID IT WOULD BE CHALLENGED AS BUDGET REQUEST WAS FIRMED UP. BURT POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL PENTAGON OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SECRETARY BROWN, ALSO ARE SAID TO HAVE DOUBTS OVER NEED TO PROCEED WITH ESTIMATED 35 BILLION DOLLAR PROGRAM.

7. WALTER PINCUS OF WASHINGTON POST SAID SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE YESTERDAY AUTHORIZED PROCUREMENT NEXT YEAR OF COMPONENTS FOR NEUTRON WARHEAD FOR LANCE MISSILE WITHOUT PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH PRODUCTION OF NEW GENERATION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ACCORDING TO ONE CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE, PINCUS SAID, COMMITTEE VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY FOR "NEUTRON COMPONENTS TO GIVE PRESIDENT 'AS MUCH LEVERAGE AS POSSIBLE' IN SEEKING SOME ARMS CONCESSIONS FROM SOVIET UNION FOR NOT PRODUCING WEAPONS."

8. WASHINGTON STAR PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT THAT U.S. OFFICIALS HAD CONFIRMED THAT SOVIETS HAVE MADE ANOTHER TEST OF THEIR SYSTEM TO DESTROY SPACE SATELLITES. AP SAID PENTAGON ISSUED BRIEF STATEMENT SAYING "SOVIETS LAUNCHED PROBABLE ANTI-SATELLITE INTERCEPTOR ON MAY 19 AGAINST UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 135661

SOVIET SATELLITE." AP SAID TEST CAME LESS THAN THREE WEEKS BEFORE SCHEDULED JUNE 8 START OF U.S.-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS IN HELSINKI, AIMED AT BANNING SUCH SPACE WAR WEAPONS. TEST WAS NINTH BY SOVIETS SINCE EARLY 1976 AND FIRST IN FIVE MONTHS. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, AP REPORTED, SAID INTER-CEPTOR GOT "PRETTY CLOSE" TO TARGET SATELLITE BUT DID NOT EXPLODE. WEAPON DROPPED OUT OF ORBIT INTACT, BUT SATELLITE HAS REMAINED IN SPACE; SOURCES SAID. VANCE

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